

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Purpose: To provide requirements for safety whenever recreational fires or bonfires are conducted.
- B. Scope: All individuals, schools or companies who engage in the aforementioned activities are subject to this regulation.
- C. Author: The Deputy Chief of the Prevention Services Bureau, through the Assistant Fire Chief (Fire Marshal) of the Fire Prevention Division, is responsible for the content, revision, and periodic review of this regulation.
- D. Definitions:
 - 1. Bonfire is the open burning of cut trees, vegetation, or lumber.
 - 2. Hazardous fire area shall mean any land which is covered with grass, grain brush or forest, whether privately or publicly owned, which is so situated or is of such inaccessible location that a fire originating upon such land would present an abnormally difficult job of suppression or would result in great and unusual damage through fire or erosion. It shall include those areas designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the Board of Supervisors.
 - 3. Open burning is the burning of a bonfire, rubbish fire, or other fire in an outdoor location where fuel being burned is not in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, and barbecue grill or barbecue pit.
 - 4. Recreational fire is the burning of materials other than rubbish where fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and with a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking or similar purposes.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Station captains are responsible for ensuring a site inspection has been completed as necessary prior to final approval to burn.
- B. Permittees are responsible for complying with this regulation.

III. POLICY

- A. Department members shall follow LACoFD Procedure #8 for the issuance of a Permit to Burn. The proposed site and the material to be burned are to be inspected to ensure compliance with this regulation prior to the issuance of a Permit to Burn.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Permit Required: An authorized representative shall obtain a permit for open burning or bonfire from the Department and/or United States Forest Service officer having jurisdiction prior to burning. When required a permit from South Coast Air Quality Management District or the Antelope Valley Air Quality Board shall be obtained prior to fire department permit is issued. (F.C 1102.1.1, 1102.3.2)
- B. Cooking, recreational or ceremonial fires on private property shall have a maximum of 9 square feet of fire area and are not permitted in Hazardous Fire Areas. (F.C. 1102.3.9 #7)
- C. Open burning: To conduct open burning on public property, or on the property of someone other than the permit applicant, the permit applicant shall demonstrate permission has been obtained by appropriate government agency, the owner, or the owner's authorized agent. When limits for atmospheric conditions or hours restrict burning, such limits shall be designated in the permit instructions. (F.C. 105.8.o.1 See Section F.C. 1102.3
- D. Prior to commencement of any open burning the Department shall be notified as directed on Permit to Burn. (F.C. 1102.3.2)
- E. Attendance: Burning material shall be constantly attended by a person knowledgeable in the use of the fire extinguishing equipment required by Section 1102.3.6 and familiar with the permit limitations which restrict open burning. An attendant shall supervise for burning material until the fire is extinguished. (F.C. 1102.3.7)
- F. Discontinuance: The chief is authorized to require that open burning be immediately discontinued if it is determined that smoke emissions are offensive to occupants in the surrounding property, or if the chief determines that the open burning will constitute a hazardous condition. If windy conditions exist or develop, all burning operations shall cease immediately (F.C. 1102.3.8)

- G. A garden hose connected to a water supply or other approved fire extinguishing systems shall be readily available for use at bonfires. Buckets, shovels, garden hoses or a minimum 4-A rating fire extinguisher shall be readily available for use at other open or recreational fires. (F.C. 1102.3.6 & 1102.4.3)
- H. Open burning of rubbish containing paper products, tar paper, rubber, oil, etc is strictly prohibited. (F.C. 1102.3.2)
- I. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material unless contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread to within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition. (F.C. 1102.4.2)
- J. Bonfires:
1. Total fuel area shall be 15' or less in diameter and 8' or less in height.
 2. Pit type fires shall not be allowed.
 3. Class I flammables shall not be used as fire starters.
 4. Rubbish, tar paper, rubber, oil, etc., shall not be used as fuel.
 5. No burning shall be permitted if windy conditions exist.
 6. Bonfires shall not be conducted within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of any structure or other combustible material. Conditions which could cause the fire to spread to within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure must be eliminated prior to ignition. (F.C. 1102.3.5)
 7. A minimum distance of 100' shall be maintained between spectators and the bonfire. Adequate barricades shall be provided and shall surround the bonfire to protect spectators from injury by flying brands or direct contact with the fire.
 8. The fire shall be extinguished with water immediately after it has burned down.